

MARVEL

3 of 5

PARENTAL
ADVISORY!
NOT FOR KIDS!

GEORGE A. ROMERO

EMPIRE OF THE DEAD

ACT TWO

ILLUSTRATED BY
DALIBOR TALAJIC



NYC UNDEAD UPDATE!



MAYOR CHANDRAKE



PENNY JONES



PAUL BARNUM



XAVIER

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DEAD FIRST WALKED, NEW YORK CITY HAS BECOME A FORTRESS OF ISOLATION AGAINST THE UNDEAD PLAGUE VIA THE MILITARISTIC FORCES OF MAYOR CHANDRAKE AND HIS CABAL OF SECRET VAMPIRES!

PENNY JONES, A MEDICAL SCIENTIST, AND ZOMBIE WRANGLER PAUL BARNUM ARE WORKING TO TAME A ZOMBIE (AND FORMER SWAT OFFICER) NAMED XAVIER WHO NOT ONLY EXHIBITS INTELLIGENCE BUT SHOWED COMPASSION, SAVING A STREET URCHIN NAMED JO.

BUT IT'S NOT ALL GOOD NEWS. A MAN NAMED RUNYON PLAYS POLITICAL GAMES, PITTING MAYOR CHANDRAKE'S OWN NEPHEW BILL AGAINST HIM WHILE QUIETLY BACKING DARK HORSE CANDIDATE (AND VAMPIRE) CHILLY DOBBS. A BAND OF SOUTHERN REBELS PLAN TO INVADE NYC, HAVING PERFORMED A TEST ATTACK ON SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY! A VICTIM OF AN UNSANCTIONED VAMPIRE ATTACK WAS TAKEN TO PENNY'S HOSPITAL, WHERE SHE EXHIBITS ALARMING BODILY CHANGES AND A STRANGE HUNGER...

NEW YORK REMAINS A DANGEROUS PLACE. BE PREPARED. STAY VIGILANT. AIM FOR THE BRAIN.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE 
CITY COUNCIL FOR SECURITY:

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SECACUS,
NEW JERSEY.

I WAS IN
'GHANISTAN
AND I NEVER
SAW WORSE
DEN DIS.

LIKE IT WAS
DONE BY SOME...
WAR MACHINE
OR SOMETHING.
BIG GUNS, OR...
SOMETHING.
I DUNNO.

NOT
GUNS...

...THIS WAS
DONE BY AN
AIRPLANE.

HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?

WHOLE
BUNCHA FOLKS
HEARD IT FLYIN'
OVER, DETECTIVE.
THEY SAID IT DIDN'T
SOUND LIKE A JET.
MORE LIKE ONE
O' THEM...

...OLD-FASHIONED
PROPELLER
JOBS, YOU
KNOW?

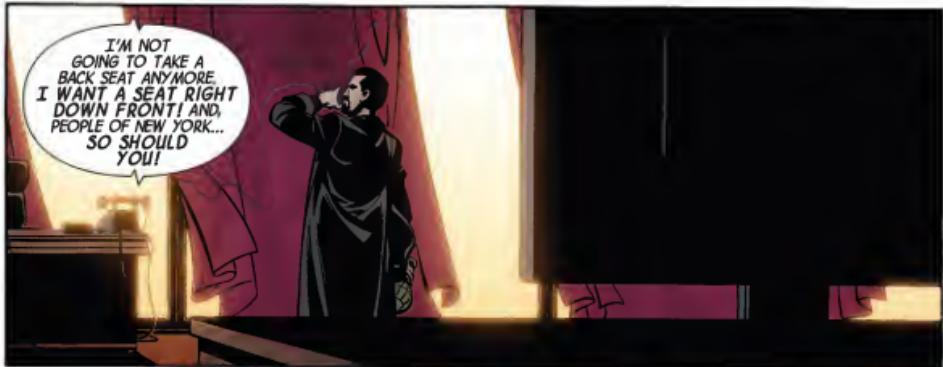
PROPELLERS.
HMM...

DIRIGIBLES...THAT FLY OVER
SPORTING EVENTS...USE
PROPELLERS TO MOVE THEM
THROUGH THE AIR. IF I AM NOT
MISTAKEN, THERE ARE STORAGE
HANGARS RIGHT HERE IN
NEW JERSEY.

NEWARK,
NEW JERSEY.



MAYOR
CHANDRAKE'S
APARTMENT.





EVERY MAN WHO I MEET IS EITHER INNOCENT OR GUILTY...OF SOMETHING. IF HE IS INNOCENT, I DO NOT NEED TO SHAKE HIS HAND. IF HE IS GUILTY, I DO NOT WANT TO. THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST, MISTER MAYOR, THAT YOU FALL INTO EITHER CATEGORY.

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY. I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO EMPLOY...SIMILAR STANDARDS.

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PRIVATE.

THIS IS MINDY GREEN, MY CAMPAIGN MANAGER. THAT'S AS PRIVATE AS IT GETS IN ELECTION SEASON.

YOU MUST BE HERE FOR A REASON, GENTLEMEN. WHAT IS IT?

YES, THERE IS A REASON. WE ARE INVESTIGATING SOME VERY PECCULAR EVENTS. FIRST, TWO BORDER GUARDS WERE KILLED ON THE MANHATTAN SIDE OF THE HOLLAND TUNNEL.

YES, I WAS INFORMED ABOUT THAT.

...LAST NIGHT, HALF OF SECAUCUS WAS TURNED INTO PEBBLES BY WHAT WITNESSES SAY SOUNDED LIKE SOME KIND OF OLD-FASHIONED BOMBER.

NEXT, A TOLL-BOOTH WAS DESTROYED... DESTROYED! ERASED...ON THE JERSEY SIDE. AND NEXT...

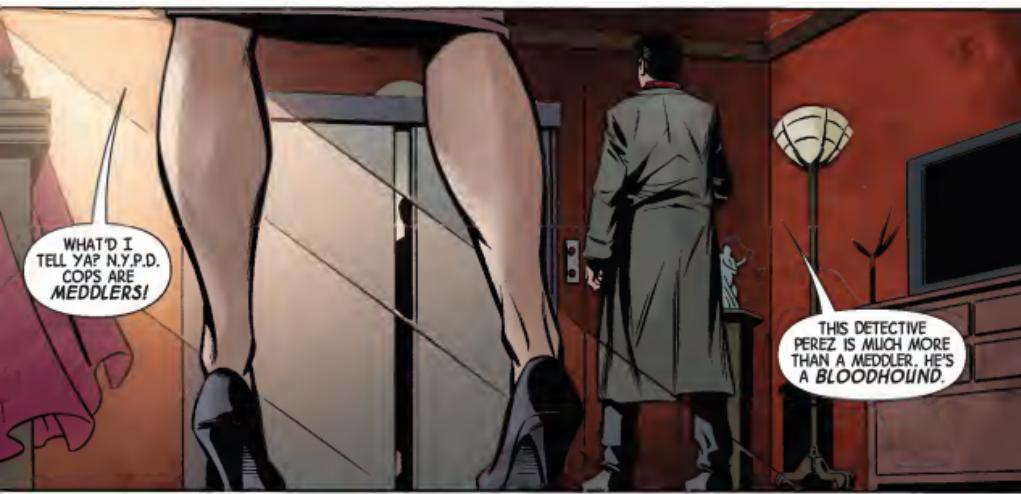
THANKFULLY, DETECTIVE, WE ARE IN NEW YORK, NOT SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY.

THE HOLLAND TUNNEL INCIDENT WAS ON THIS SIDE OF THE HUDSON.

WE'RE SPECULATIN'...JUST SPEC-ULATIN'...THAT SOME BAD GUY MIGHTA BROUGHT SOMETHIN' ACROSS THE RIVER. EXPLOSIVES? SOME KINDA GERM, MAYBE?

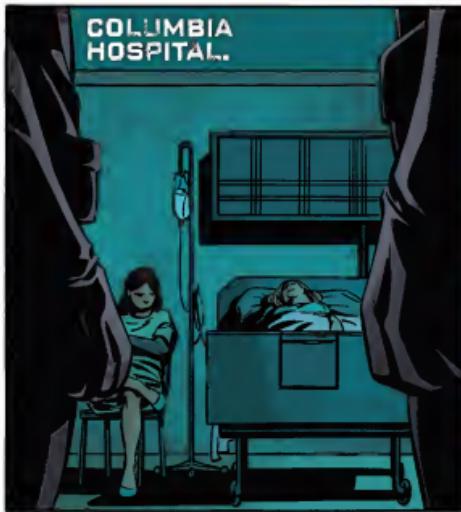
THAT'S A BIT OF A STRETCH, DON'T YOU THINK?

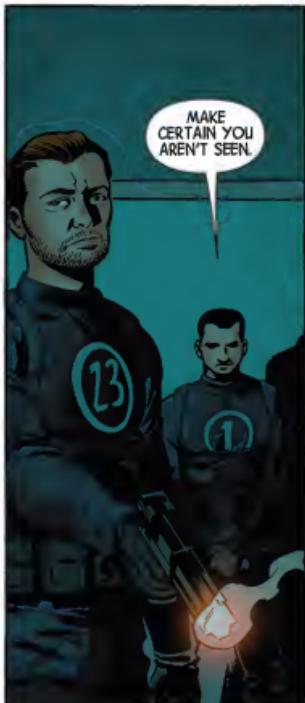






COLUMBIA
HOSPITAL.





MADISON SQUARE GARDEN.

SOMETHING'S WRONG. THE CAR THAT BROUGHT ME HERE WAS SILVER. THIS ONE IS BLACK.

THE BOSS MUSTA SWITCHED IT OUT. GO ON. GET IN.



TELL THE DRIVER WHERE TO GO, BILL.

I, ER...I SUPPOSE WE'RE GOING...TO THE DAKOTA.

HE'S ALL YOURS.



YOU HUNGRY?

I COULD EAT.



IS THAT YOU NEPHEW?

YES.

YOU KNOW WHERE THE BAR IS. POUR YOURSELF A DRINK AND BRING IT OUT ONTO THE TERRACE. IT'S A LOVELY NIGHT.





I HOPE
YOU'RE NOT
TOO...DISTURBED
BY THE THINGS
I'VE BEEN
SAYING.

DISTURBED?
OF COURSE NOT.
I DON'T EXPECT
YOU TO SHARE
MY...POLITICAL
VIEWS.

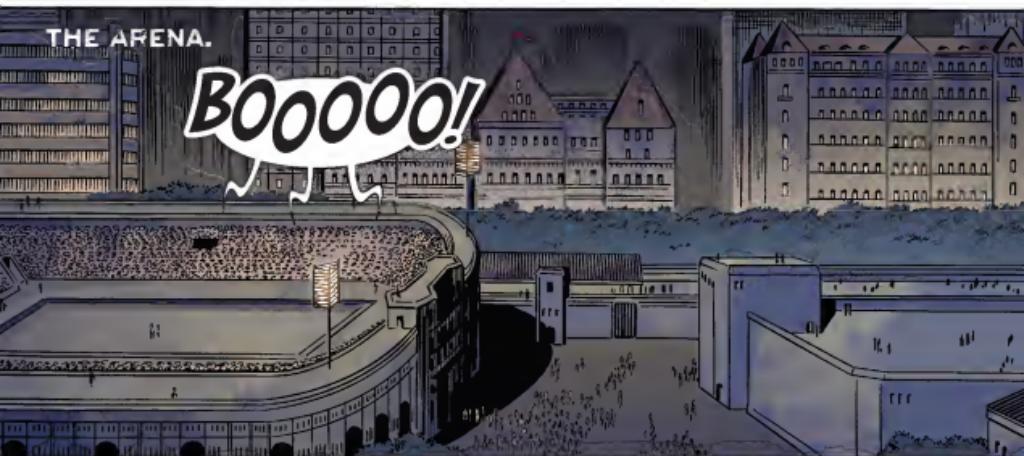






THE ARENA.

BOOOOO!



IT'S LIKE...
THEY JUST
DON'T WANNA
FIGHT!



LADIES AND GENTS, BOYS AND GIRLS...YOU REMEMBER HIM FROM THE OLD DAYS...MIGHTY JOE YOUNNNNG!!!

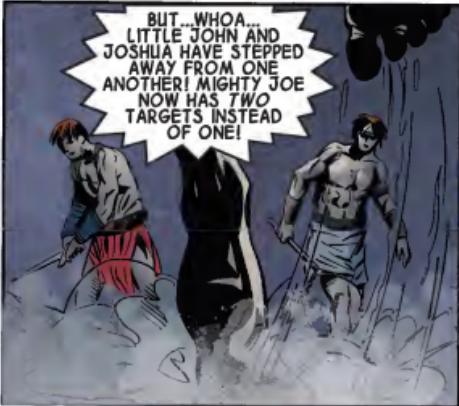


JOE IS GOING RIGHT TO WORK!



T-CHING

BUT...WHOA...
LITTLE JOHN AND
JOSHUA HAVE STEPPED
AWAY FROM ONE
ANOTHER! MIGHTY JOE
NOW HAS TWO
TARGETS INSTEAD
OF ONE!



SWING AND A MISS! MIGHTY JOE HAS BEEN THROWN OFF-BALANCE!



AND HERE COMES JOSHUA!
IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE,
BUT HE AND LITTLE JOHN ARE WORKING TOGETHER!





OUTSIDE
THE ARENA.

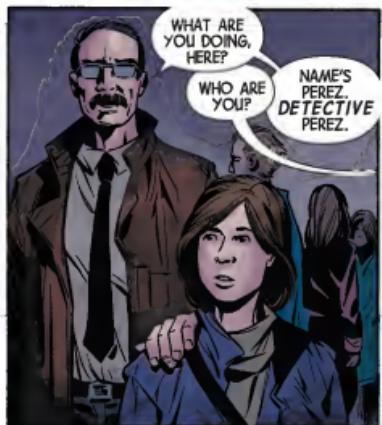


YOU
KID INTO
THE BUS!

IN A
PIG'S EYE,
MISTER.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
HERE?

NAME'S
PEREZ.
DETECTIVE
PEREZ.



I'M ACTING ON ORDERS
SUPPOSED TO ROUND UP
HOMELESS KIDS. TOO
MANY OF 'EM ON
THE STREETS.

I'VE HEARD
OF NO SUCH
ORDERS.

PROBABLY ABOVE
YOUR PAY GRADE. WE
TAKE 'EM TO A SAFE
PLACE. HOT MEAL, WARM
BED. IT'S FOR THEIR
OWN GOOD.



THIS PARTICULAR
CHILD WILL NOT BE
GOING WITH YOU
THIS EVENING.

HEY...NO
SKIN OFF
MY BUTT.

I AM VERY SUSPICIOUS. IF YOU
SEE THOSE MEN ANOTHER TIME,
DO NOT DO ANYTHING
THEY TELL YOU TO DO.



PENNY JONES' LAB.

I
HOPE YOU
APPROVE.

CLICK

I BROUGHT
IN ALL THE BEST
CONSULTANTS.
SPARED NO
EXPENSE ON THE
EQUIPMENT.

I CAN
SEE THAT.

IT'S...
EVERYTHING
I COULD EVER
HAVE WANTED.
THANK YOU.





